

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 01491 212042Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PE

SUBJ: REJECTION OF PERUVIAN ALLEGATIONS OF U.S.

INVOLVEMENT TO LIMA DISTURBANCES

REFS: (A) STATE 30671 (B) LIMA 1317

1. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A, I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR AGAIN TO EXPRESS THE DEEP USG CONCERN OVER ALLEGATIONS OF ANY USG INVOLVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 5 LIMA DISTURBANCES AND OVER UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS, OFFICIALS AND OTHERWISE, AGAINST USG OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. I REPEATED FOR DE LA FLOR THE POINTS MADE ON FEBRUARY 7 TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS TO PERUVIAN MINISTER ROCA -ZELA TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION FOR SUGGESTIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIMA DISTURBANCES AND SAID THE USG DEPLORES AND REJECTS AS BASELESS AND HARMFUL STATEMENTS MADE AGAINST AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA. I ALSO DEALT WITH PRESS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MY PERSON, AID AND PEACE CORPS.

2. ON THE LIMA DISTURBANCES I REVIEWED MY CONVERSATION WITH SEC. GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA OF THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 01491 212042Z

6 IN WHICH I PROTESTED THE IRRESPONSIBLE LA PRENS CHARGE

OF CIA INVOLVEMENT AS AN INCITEMENT TO FURTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST THE U.S. EMBASSY AT THE VERY TIME THAT ELEMENTS OF THE GOP WERE TRYING TO RESTORE ORDER AND PROVIDE US WHAT LITTLE PROTECTION THEY COULD AT THAT TIME. I REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN AND TO MY OWN AND EMPHATICALLY ASSURED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE USG IS NOT INTERVENING IN PERU'S INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. WE DEEPLY REGRETTED ANY ALLEGATIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT. I REMINDED DE LA FLOR OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' STATEMENT OF LAST DECEMBER MADE UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN PERU FOR THE AYACUCHO CEREMONIES ESPECIALLY THE SENTENCE THE "US IS DETERMINED TO RESPECT MORE THAN EVER THE RIGHT OF EACH NATION TO ORGANIZE ITS SOCIETY IN ITS OWN, OFTEN UNIQUE WAY". I GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE STATEMENT IN SPANISH.

3. CONCERNING PERUVIAN ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA I ASKED DE LA FLOR TO EXERT HIS INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT THESE FALSE, UNFAIR AND HARMFUL ALLEGATIONS ARE NOT REPEATED. I EXPLAINED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IN ADDITION TO BEING FALSE AND DEPLORED BY THE USG THESE ALLEGATIONS HAD SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ELSEWHERE. URUGUAYAN NEWSPAPERS AND EVEN A PARIS PUBLICATION WERE REPLAYING THESE ALLEGATIONS AND BLOWING THEM UP TO THE POINT OF TRYING TO INVOLVE AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA IN AN ASSASSINATION PLOT WHICH COULD PLACE THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS FAMILY IN REAL PERSONAL DANGER. I AGAIN ASSURED THE FONMIN THE CHARGES AGAINST FRANK OTIZ WERE ALSO FALSE.

4. I MENTIONED TO DE LA FLOR THAT I TOO HAD BEEN TAGGED AS A CIA AGENT BY TWO LIMA NEWSPAPERS. I SAID THAT SURELY THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN PERU AND THE UNITED STATE ARE SUFFICIENTLY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT CLOUDING ISSUES BY PUBLICATION OF IRRESPONSIBLE AND FALSE CHARGES. I WENT INTO MY BACKGROUND EXPLAINING A 1960 ASSIGNMENT TO THE PENTAGON (ALLEGED "PROOF" OF A CIA CONNECTION) AS PART OF A CONTINUING STATE/DEFENSE DEPARTMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM, AND I LEFT DOCUMENTS DESCRIBING THAT PROGRAM WITH DE LA FLOR. I ALSO LEFT WITH DE LA FLOR A 1968 WASHINGTON STAR ARTICLE DEALING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 01491 212042Z

WITH THE EAST GERMAN PUBLICATION "WHO'S WHO IN THE CIA" (WITH AN IMPOSING LIST OF US LUMINARIES INCLUDED IN THAT BOOK) AS AN INDICATION OF THE FLIMSY "PROOF" RESORTED TO BY SOME TO BACK UP THEIR ALLEGATIONS. FURTHERMORE, I POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE NOT IN THE HABIT OF ASSIGNING CIA OFFICIALS AS AMBASSADORS ABROAD, AND IN THE CASE OF THE FEW WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED, THEIR BACKGROUND HAS BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND EXAMINED OPENLY BY THE SENATE FOREIGN

RELATIONS COMMITTEE BEFORE CONFIRMATION. I ADDED THAT SUCH INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PERUVIAN AND OTHER EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

5. I AGAIN REFERRED TO OLD CHARGES AGAINST USG AGENCIES AND EMPHATICALLY TOLD DE LA FLOR THAT THERE IS NO CIA INVOLVEMENT IN AID OR IN U.S. INFORMATION PROGRAMS. NOR WAS THERE ANY CIA CONNECTION WITH THE RECENTLY TERMINATED PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HAD BEEN TERMINATED FOR OTHER REASONS AND AT NO TIME DID THE GOP ALLEGE CIA CONNECTION.

6. ALTHOUGH DE LA FLOR MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS AND ASIDES DURING MY PRESENTATION, I HAVE RESERVED MOST OF THESE FOR THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OR TWO OF THIS CABLE. THE FIRST AND PERHAPS LONGEST INTERVENTION WAS AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT MADE TO THE US PRESS BY FONMINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN OSCAR FAURA. IN ESSENCE WHAT DE LA FLOR SAID WAS THAT FAURA WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY A LEADING QUESTION AND WAS GIVING ONLY A PERSONAL VIEW IN AN OFF-THE-RECORD SESSION WITH NEWSMEN. HE SAID FAURA WITH ALL OF HIS EXPERIENCE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL. WITH REFERENCE TO THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR BARRIOS IN COLOMBIA TO WHICH I ALSO ALLUDED, DE LA FLOR TOLD ME THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY CALLED BARRIOS BY PHONE TO QUERY HIM ON THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY THE COLOMBIAN PRESS, AND BARRIOS HAD ASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD MADE NO SUCH STATEMENTS. ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE GOT INTO A RATHER LONG PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DISCUSSION OF THE TRACK RECORD AND THE NATURAL, INGRAINED LATIN AMERICAN AND PERUVIAN FEARS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LIMA 01491 212042Z

OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT. THE BEST I COULD DO WAS REINFORCE ALL THE ASSURANCES THAT WE HAVE GIVEN THE GOP IN THIS REGARD FROM OUR HIGHEST OFFICIALS ON DOWN. I LEFT WITH DE LA FLOR A COPY OF JERRY O'LEARY'S ARTICLE IN

THE WASHINGTON STAR NEWS OF JANUARY 10 REPORTING ASSURANCES GIVEN BY COLBY TO THE HEMISPHERE CHIEFS OF MISSION THAT "NO OPERATIONS" WERE TAKING PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA. HE WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THAT STATEMENT AS WELL AS THE OTHER DOCUMENTS I TURNED OVER TO HIM. HE DID NOT PRONOUNCE HIMSELF ON AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA, FRANK ORTIZ OR ME (ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY SEVERAL RANKING GOP OFFICIALS THAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE PRESS REPORTS IN MY REGARD), BUT SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS FURTHER WITH ME AT LENGTH WHEN HE

HAD MORE TIME (AS USUAL HE WAS WORKING ON A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE), AND AFTER HE HAD STUDIED A DETAILED REPORT AL ALLEGATIONS REGARDING SIRACUS AND ORITIZ HE SAID HE HAD REQUESTED. HE SEVERAL TIMES MADE THE POINT THAT THE GOP DOES NOT CONTROL THE PRESS IN PERU.

7. FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH THE FONMIN WHICH I HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED WILL BE REPORTED AS SOON AS IT OCCURS.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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